India-Nepal Boundary Committee, constituted in 1981, has been entrusted with this task.

Encroachments in the Champaran sector are a long-standing problem dating back to the 1930's. According to the Government of Bihar, the area involved in this sector is over 5 thousand acres.

This matter has been discussed with the Government of Nepal at various levels including the Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee. The area was inspected by Joint Survey teams of India and Nepal in April, 1992 and May, 1993, and the matter is being pursued with the Nepalese authorities.

Resolving of differences between India and Pakistan

264. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Prime Minister after his reinstatement has suggested for a fresh beginning to resolve the differences between India and Pakistan on many issues;

(b) if so, what are the details of the suggestions given by Pakistan; and

(c) what is Government's reaction with regard to the Pakistan offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) (a) and (b) In response to a congratulatory message by Prime Minister on May 27, 1993 addressed to the former Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif, he sent a message which, inter alia, stated that India and Pakistan could make a fresh beginning to resolve the bilateral issues.

(c) Government remains committed to resolving all outstanding issues with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral dialogue. However, meaningful discussions can only be held once a climate is created which is conducive to promoting mutual trust and confidence. For this Pakistan must stop its support to subversion and terrorism directed against India.

Performance of Indian Joint Ventures Abroad

265. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has asked Indian Missions abroad to monitor the performance of Indian joint ventures abroad in close cooperation with the inter-Ministerial Committee on joint ventures as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 14th July, 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the budgetory provisions made during 1993-94; and

(c) what special efforts have been made so far to project investment promotional strategies and organise prefotional events during 1993-94 and 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Missions abroad have been given detailed instructions for extending their assistance in monitoring existing joint ventures, and making objetcive evaluations of new preposals for the setting up of joint ventures in the country of accreditation. These instructions were in pursuance of the discussions of the concerned Inter-Ministerial Committee, located in the Ministry of Commerce. All Missions are required to compile a complete list tf existing Indian joint ventures and to send an annual status report which incorporates details of the progress and problems of Indian joint ventures in their country of accreditation. New proposals for joint ventures are also sent to the concerned Missions by the Ministry of Commerce, for comments. The views expressed by the Missions constitute an important input while considering approval of these proposals by the Inter-Ministerial Committee. There are no separate budgetary provisions for monitoring such joint ventures.

(c) Special efforts for projecting investment promotion strategies include the organisation of promotional events (both abroad as well as in India), utilising bilateral visits by Government delegation to important countries, to address and influence targeted business audiences, and coordinating action with India apex industry organisations in their efforts to attract foreign investment. Among the publicity measures undertaken for projecting India as an attractive investment destination are the preparation of publicity kits comprising of brochures, a floppy diskette entitled 'Doing Business with India', and their regular updating Indian Heads of Mission, in particular, are playing a crucial role in promoting India's economic interests. *Investment promotional efforts and* strateges are a continous process. Government proposes to continue with such measures and intends to lay increasing emphasis on a sector specific approach in our investment promotion efforts.

Increase in Passport Fee

266. SHRI J. P. JAVALI:

SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the fee for fresh ordinary passport has been hiked;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the compelling reasons for the steep increase in the fee;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the applicants are made to wait for months for issue of passports, if so, reasons for the same; and

(e) what is the number of applications pending before Bangalore passport office and since how long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c) The passport fees were revised to bring them in line with the cost of production and preparation of passports and the provision of passport services.

(d) The time taken to issue passports varies from passport office to passport office depending on the workload and the staff strength.

(e) The number of applications for fresh passports pending in the Bangalore Passport Office for over one month was 20,415 as on July, 2, 1993.

Statement

Sl. No.	Particulars of application	Scale of fees	
		India	Abroad
1.	2	3	4
	New Passports	Rs.	Rs.
1.	Ordinary passport with a maximum validity of ten years (no extra fee will be charged for renewals upto ten years if initial validity is less)	300	750
2.	India-Bangladeeh Passport with a maximum initial validity of three years (no extra fee will be charged for renewals upto three years if the initial validity is less)	200	50
3.	India-Sri Lanka Passport with a maximum initial validity of four years (no extra fees will be charged for renewals upto four years life if initial validity is less)	200	500